

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2095

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR PFOR MX

SUBJECT: ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES, MEXICO'S SECRETARY OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS

REF: MEXICO 11410

1. AS DEPARTMENT AND USUN ARE AWARE, ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES, A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO WILL BE 65 IN MARCH, HAS REPLACED EMILIO RABASA AS MEXICO'S SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, GARCIA STATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN MEXICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND POINTED OUT THAT "HE WHO DIRECTS THE PRINCIPLES OF SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATION IS PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA."

2. THERE ARE PRESS HINTS THAT RABASA WILL RUN FOR THE SENATE, BUT HE REFUSED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE ASSEMBLED REPORTERS. RABASA'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION IS A LANDMARK OF FORMAL BREVITY.

3. EXTENSIVE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON GARCIA ROBLES IS ALREADY ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT. EVERY REPORT STRESSES HIS ACADEMIC AND DIPLOMATIC BRILLIANCE, HIS SKILL AS A DEBATER, HIS COLD FORMALITY, AND HIS NATIONALISTIC OUTLOOK. MEXICO'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON DISARMAMENT AND
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ALSO AN AUTHORITY ON LOS, GARCIA PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN

THE NEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO (1967) AND
IN THE DEFEAT OF A US PROPOSAL IN THE 1958 LOS CONFERENCE.
SINCE GARCIA HAS BEEN MEXICO'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN SINCE
DECEMBER 1970 AND BECAUSE GARCIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE
UNITED STATES (AND EVEN HIS IDEOLOGY) HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT
OF CONFLICTING REPORTS, WE REQUEST COMMENT ON GARCIA'S
ATTITUDES FROM USUN.

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